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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **Toshiyuki SAKURAI et al.**

Group Art Unit: **2143**

Serial No.: **09/987,017**

Examiner: **Joseph E. Avellino**

Filed: **November 13, 2001**

Confirmation Number: **6353**

For: **LINKAGE SYSTEM FOR MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS**

Attorney Docket Number: **011441**

Customer Number: **38834**

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

April 12, 2006

Sir:

Applicants respond herein to the Office Action mailed January 20, 2006.

Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 12, 13, and 16-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Berman et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,995,939, in view of Akers et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0169637. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection as unjustified.

Claim 1 describes a linkage system in which a first computer has:

- (1) a *database* that stores and retrieves "patient data of patients ... and medical treatment data related to the patient data";
- (2) an inquiry file creator configured to create an inquiry file having "patient data and medical treatment data both *extracted from the database*" and inquiry contents; and
- (3) an inquiry mail creator configured to create an e-mail being attached to the created inquiry file ...

Claims 5 and 16 depend from claim 1, so they also recite this subject matter. Claim 6 describes a computer in a linkage system that has the elements quoted above. Claims 7 and 17 depend from